Eric C. Strain, M.D.
President

I am writing this as we near the end of September, and it is hard to believe that the summer is over and that it has been two months since we finished our annual meeting in San Juan. I will return to the annual meeting later in my column, but there are some other topics that I should address first. And, I hope this finds everyone having had a good summer and ready for the fall.

The College is going through a significant change, as Marty Adler steps down as the Executive Officer (EO) after having been in this position for over 25 years. If you know Marty, you know that he cares deeply about the College, and I appreciate his commitment to our organization over many years. He (and his wife, Toby), have been mainstays at our annual meeting, and in many ways Marty is the face of CPDD.

We are very fortunate to have Ellen Geller as the Director of the CPDD office, and Ellen provides valuable continuity and institutional memory as Marty retires from the EO position. Ellen has been instrumental in a multitude of our day-to-day operations, and is an invaluable resource when it comes to the planning and execution of the program and the overall logistics of the annual meeting – as well as what gets done throughout the year. I want also to acknowledge Neico Smith and Connie Pollack, who help to staff the CPDD office and are constantly called on to help address the needs of our members.

We also have a new Executive Officer! Loretta Finnegan was elected at the June, 2014 meeting to be the new EO of CPDD. Loretta has been involved with the College for years (indeed, she was on the Board of Directors when we were the Committee on Problems of Drug Dependence), and brings a wealth of experience from her days in academia and the federal government, as well as her continued advocacy for patients with substance abuse problems. Loretta is stepping into the role of EO as Marty steps out of this role, and this transition is moving forward.

In addition to these staff changes, the College also has a new President Elect (Sandra Comer), and a new Treasurer (Linda Cottler). I want to be sure to note and acknowledge my thanks to Frank Vocci for his work as President this past year (Frank now assumes the role of “Past President”, so he is still very active with the College during all of these transitions). Frank was critical in the process of bringing on a new EO – in some ways, he was like a Dean of a medical school who was working on the filling of a departmental chair position, and I know he spent many hours as the College worked to move forward on the EO transition.

There were a number of other people involved in the process of seeking out a new EO – indeed, we had a search committee that consisted of Richard de la Garza (who chaired the committee), Linda Porrino, Ted Cicero, Mary Jeanne Kreek, and Sharon Walsh. This group deserves our thanks for the time and effort they put in to the process.

Continued on page 2
The danger with starting to thank people by name is that one can overlook a person, and if I have done so, I sincerely apologize. There were other candidates for the EO position, and I won’t name names here, but it was gratifying that there was an excellent group that was committed to the College and clearly cared deeply about it and its future.

Let me turn to a few other updates and thoughts.

Our meeting in San Juan was a great success. I have often thought that the conference seems to consistently hit a sweet spot where there is a mix of terrific science and collegiality - especially in a setting that is comfortable and that encourages the informal discussions that can help to facilitate science. There might be an occasional year where the setting is not a home run, or the science that I hear is more singles and doubles (I write this as the Orioles have clinched the AL East, so baseball is on my mind), but when everything is working, the meeting is a highlight of my year. I think this past June meeting worked on virtually all fronts (a string of home runs). Key to it all is that I heard a lot of science that was very strong and got me thinking, and I left with ideas of new areas to explore. I want to be sure to thank Elise Weerts (the chair of the program committee) and the members of that committee for all of their work in putting together a strong set of sessions. Hopefully you were at the meeting, and it was equally successful and fulfilling for you. If you have feedback on the conference, we are always looking to improve it. If there were things you particularly liked, we certainly welcome hearing about that, too.

I would be remiss if I did not also note that our next meeting is June 13-18, 2015, and will be held at the Biltmore Hotel in Arizona. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the International Narcotics Research Conference (INRC) - their meeting will run from June 15-19. We had a joint meeting with INRC a few years ago, and the College looks forward to another successful time during which we will have overlapping sessions. Stay tuned to hear more about the meeting, as we get closer to June.

Before closing, let me take a moment to address the federal funding situation. The CPDD Executive Committee recently met in Washington, and several of us spent time making visits to Capitol Hill staff. The NIH funding situation remains tenuous, which is unlikely to be news to you. At the time I write this, it is hard to see clearly where the NIH budget will land in dollars, given the upcoming mid-term elections. We need to continue to advocate for the budget with your elected representatives, and if you have opportunities to do so, please don’t hesitate to contact the CPDD office. They can help you through our Public Policy Committee.

I want to conclude by noting that the College and our field is in a period of substantial change, and those changes can create stresses at times as we determine new relationships, as we find new ways of operating, and as we equilibrate in an era of fiscal uncertainty and tightening resources. I have been struck by how there is a broad and committed group of scientists who care deeply about the organization and about the field of addiction research, and when people care deeply about something it shows in their time, energy and passion. I appreciate what each person brings to our work on behalf of the College, and to advancing the science related to drug dependence, and I’m confident that we will continue to move forward and advance our work as an organization and as scientists.
2014 AWARD WINNERS

Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award

**Nora Volkow, M.D.**

I am extremely grateful to the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) for selecting me for the prestigious and highly coveted Nathan B. Eddy Award. For more than three decades I have had a passion for studying the neurobiology underlying addictive disorders and other mental disorders with high co-morbidity with substance use disorders. And in my view, among the most rewarding aspects of conducting drug abuse and addiction research—second only to helping addicted individuals—are the collegial and intellectual bonds we form with our peers. And so, to receive the Eddy Award from those you admire most—your scientific colleagues—is truly gratifying. I consider it a tremendous honor to be joining the impressive ranks of previous Eddy awardees—each of whom have played a key role in shaping the course of drug abuse and addiction research—in accepting this very meaningful tribute to my work.

Marian Fischman Lectureship Award

**Amy Newman, Ph.D.**

It is truly an honor for me to be chosen for the 2014 Marian Fischman Lectureship Award. In science, it is a rare occasion to be honored by your peers, to be recognized for scientific contributions, not only at the bench, but also as a mentor and role model. I am especially grateful to my longtime collaborator and friend, Dr. Mike Nader, who nominated me for this award. I am also eternally grateful to Dr. Kenner Rice, not only for his seconding letter, but also for the tremendous mentorship and guidance he has generously provided to me since my post-doctoral days in his laboratory. And, to Dr. Antonello Bonci, not only for his letter, but also for his early recognition of what I could bring to the NIDA “table”, if given the freedom to do so. To all three of you, thank you! I am also tremendously grateful to the CPDD Award Committee and President, Dr. Frank Vocci, for honoring me in this way. Frank’s telephone call to me several months ago will not be forgotten, nor will his willingness to go to bat for me with NIH Ethics so I could actually receive this award today—lucky for me, we share NIDA roots! It is truly a glorious moment.

Although I did not have the good fortune to personally know Dr. Marian Fischman, I know all the women who have preceded me in receiving this award and I am truly honored to be among them. Like Marian and all the past award winners, my excitement about science and my commitment to learning as much as possible, creating the tools to make new discoveries and engendering that excitement in my mentees have been some of the easier things to accomplish. Balancing that with a husband, three children and all of life’s other surprises, and making it look easy to those around me, has been both the challenge and the reward. As a medicinal chemist in the
addiction world, I have chosen a path that is narrow and deep. There have been few women around me to look to for guidance, but there have been many supportive men, as mentors and colleagues and friends, who have not looked at me as a woman scientist but as a committed colleague and collaborator. And that has been one of the greatest gifts to my career.

I’d like to extend a very special thanks to my family and especially to my parents, who likely still don’t have a clue of what I do. As a little girl, I didn't have a chemistry set. I was a girlie girl with dolls and a penchant to write stories. It was only later that I discovered a love of chemistry and a desire to apply it to understanding addiction biology. “What’s a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Field Like This?” is one of my science stories and the title of my talk. Thank you all again for giving me this opportunity to tell this story and for your encouragement along the way.

**CPDD Mentorship Award**

*Michael Bardo, Ph.D.*

Thanks to my letter writers and the CPDD selection committee for presenting me this high honor. The mentorship award is truly a highlight of my professional career.

I would also like to thank my past PhD mentor Dr. Richard Hughes in the Department of Psychology at Iowa State University and my past postdoctoral mentor Dr. Gerald Gebhart in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Iowa. In Jerry Gebhart’s laboratory in 1980, I first started training in electrophysiology, studying the neurophysiology of the descending pain inhibitory pathway. During the course of that training, I read an article on morphine CPP and asked Jerry if I could do an experiment in that area. He supported me 100% and told me to build a CPP box. The first experiment I conducted actually worked and that was the beginning of my career in the addiction field.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the past and current undergraduates, graduates and postdoctoral scholars that I have trained over the years at the University of Kentucky. As a faculty member, part of my job is to evaluate trainee strengths and weaknesses, and to provide evaluative feedback. However, I also recognize that behind each professional is a person and that it is on that level that I try to treat everyone as equal. I thank my trainees for enriching my life and making me a better person.

Michael Bardo (center) receives the 2014 CPDD Mentorship Award. Also shown are CPDD past-president Frank Vocci (left) and nominator Janet Neisewander (right).
Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award

Debra Furr-Holden, Ph.D.

I am honored to receive the Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award. The award recognizes contributions to drug abuse research by an investigator who has not yet attained his or her 40th birthday. When I received the call from Dr. Frank Vocci, I was surprised and flattered – I consider CPDD to be my intellectual home and recognition from my peers means a great deal to me. I was also a little tickled because I’d had my 40th birthday just a week after getting the award. Once I had gotten over the thought of people looking at me on stage and thinking “She’s not 40 yet?”, I happily thanked Dr. Vocci and began to ponder my time and membership at CPDD.

CPDD is the one meeting I attend every single year. I felt a sense of nostalgia as I received the Cochin award at this particular meeting because my very first CPDD meeting was at the same hotel – the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, Puerto Rico – in 1995, where I turned 21. I was new to the field of drug abuse research and was working as a research assistant in Dr. Jim Anthony’s lab at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Wallace Mandell, who was and still remains to me a living legend, was there with his wonderful wife, Sarah. When I told her it was my birthday she sweetly remarked, “Well let me buy you your first drink!” I grinned as I retorted, “You mean my first legal drink!” We laughed and drank our Puerto Rican mojitos, and then talked about binge drinking and drug use among college students. Growing up in an African American working-poor community near Washington, DC, I had seen more drug selling than drug use. I experienced complete culture shock when I attended college and saw wealthy white students consume more alcohol and drugs than I had ever seen in my hometown. Sarah and I had a no-holds barred conversation about race, culture, norms, drug use, and how the environment impacts drug use; you name it, we talked about it. Our conversation wasn’t just small talk – we were making observations that would, in time, come to be central to my program of research. It touches me to know that these are the types of conversations our early career scholars are having at CPDD meetings.

Conversations like the one I had with Sarah are part of why I come to CPDD every year. CPDD is a welcoming place for our newest colleagues; a safe environment to have tough conversations that will move the field forward; a place to engage in scientific and intellectual debate about current research, and a springboard for new ideas and new collaborations. CPDD reminds me of my annual family reunion, and I look forward to seeing my professional family each year. I appreciate hearing about my colleagues’ research, meeting their new fellows, and enjoying all of the ancillary benefits of being in a warm, sunny location with really smart and fun people. When I glance back over my participation at CPDD and my own professional growth, I am reminded of all the opportunities that have been made available to me through this group. At that same meeting where I had my first legal drink, Dr. Linda Cottler asked me about my plans for post-doctoral research. I laughed because at the time I was only a rising senior in
college. She jokingly remarked, “Honey, I recruit early and at all stages”. These days, it’s me recruiting fellows for my NIDA-funded T32 Program at CPDD. I learned something from Linda that day.

CPDD is rich in intellectual and human resources, and from that I can’t stay away. I have the great honor to accept the award with my 16-year old daughter, Jordan, sitting in the front row. She was 2 months old at her first of many CPDD meetings. Her presence reminds me that I have literally ‘grown up’ during the nearly 20 years I have been around this organization. I am honored to be a part of the CPDD community and grateful to the members and awards committee for selecting me as the 2014 recipient of the Joseph Cochin Award. See you all next year!

**CPDD/NIDA Media Award**

**Charles Evans**

I’m thrilled and honored to be recognized by the College on Problems of Drug Dependence and NIDA. The Media Award makes a very personal project even more gratifying.

When I optioned the rights to Victor DeNoble's story in 1995, I envisioned producing a star-driven film financed by a studio. Then, I saw Victor talk to kids in classrooms. Their focus did not waver. He was talking straight to them, saying that drugs felt good before expanding on side effects and the negatives that attend drugs of abuse. His approach was different and the kids were absorbing every word. He gave them information and let them make their own decision.

I envisioned assuming the point of view of a kid in a classroom as Victor is dispensing tools to say, “No, I don't want to hurt my brain”. I set out to produce a portrait of a scientist determined to use his information to make the world a better place and was blessed with a trove of dramatic choices. The film's surprise is that Victor never changes. Over 30 years, he experienced a lot of rough treatment, but his vitality, humor and idealism remained constant.

At film's end, Victor walks out of a classroom. The empty classroom leaves us to consider his impact and example.

I accept CPDD's/NIDA's MEDIA AWARD with gratitude that I can share Father's Day with my nine-year-old daughter, Lily, who is here today.

This is a moment when the film you have loved, loves you back.

Thank you.
Martin and Toby Adler Distinguished Service Award

David Shurtleff, Ph.D.

I am truly honored and humbled in being chosen as the recipient of the 2014 Martin & Toby Adler Distinguished Service Award. The award named for Marty and Toby Adler is special to me given their service, contributions, and dedication to CPDD, which also includes Marty’s long career of contributions to drug abuse research. In looking at the past recipients of this award I was wondering if someone made a mistake in selecting me - it’s truly humbling to be included among those who have received this award.

I am so thankful for and appreciative of the many people at National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and CPDD who have helped and supported me during my 19 years at NIDA. Without your support, mentorship and guidance I would not be standing here today. I have always looked forward to attending the annual CPPD meeting - the collegial atmosphere, the inclusiveness, and interaction among senior and early career investigators and the broad array of research presented makes this a special event and great opportunity for networking and establishing collaborations.

We are all engaged in a truly noble enterprise to advance science and save lives. It continues to be a labor of love for me working at the National Institutes of Health (NIH); first at NIDA and now serving as the Deputy Director for National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). I am grateful to have the opportunity to contribute to CPDD and the research community in some small way. Thank you again for this award.

A recap of the 76th CPDD Annual Meeting, complete with photos, can be found at CPDD.org

77th Annual Meeting

LOCATION
Biltmore Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona

DATES
June 13th - 18th, 2015

DEADLINES
Symposia
October 15th, 2014

Workshops
October 15th, 2014

Forums
October 15th, 2014

Abstract Submission
December 5th, 2014

CPDD Travel Awards for Early Investigators
December 5th, 2014

Stephen G. Holtzman Travel Award for Preclinical Investigators
December 5th, 2014

CPDD Primm-Singleton Travel Awards
January 16th, 2015

Awards for Excellence Nominations
February 2nd, 2015
**Notable Committee News**

**Credentials Committee**
This past year the committee reviewed 102 applications for new members (72 Members-in-Training, 16 Regular, 14 Associate), and 15 applications for upgrades in status (10 Regular, 4 Associate, 1 Fellow). We encourage all members to have their colleagues, co-workers, post docs, and students submit applications to the College. Please remember that applicants for all categories except Member-in-Training must have attended at least one annual convention before applying for membership. See the CPDD website for more details on the application process and membership requirements.

**Education, Outreach and Public Policy Committee**
The 2014 Public Policy Forum included presentations from Bill Dewey on the Friends of NIDA and from Ed Long of Van Scoyoc Associates on updates from Capitol Hill, and from Andrew Kessler and Tom McLellan, who spoke on the Affordable Care Act. Another forum will occur at the 2015 meeting.

In response to increasing deaths associated with methadone use, CPDD, the American Pain Society, and the Heart Rhythm Society commissioned an expert panel to develop clinical practice guidelines on the safe use of methadone for treatment of chronic pain and opioid dependence. A systematic review synthesized the evidence related to methadone use and risk for overdose and cardiac arrhythmia. Recommendations by the expert panel include a) the need for patient education on safe use of methadone, b) use of electrocardiography to identify patients at risk for cardiac arrhythmia, c) use of alternative medications, d) careful initiation and titration of methadone, and d) ongoing monitoring and follow-up.

The committee will be submitting a symposium proposal for the 2015 American Association for Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD) annual meeting in Atlanta to disseminate the safety guidelines and support the integration of electrocardiography into routine care for opioid dependence.

**Industry/Academia/Government Relations Committee**
At the 2014 annual meeting, the committee successfully held a well-attended Town Hall Meeting focusing on “Industry-Academia-Government Scientific Collaborations”. Three main segments were moderated by committee members: 1) IRB issues, overhead and budgets, time schedules, conflict of interest, special skills and expertise; 2) Challenges faced by academic institutions when seeking collaboration with industry, benefits and drawbacks of partnering with corporate pharmaceuticals versus smaller companies; and 3) Challenges on collaborations between industry and academic institutions.

In segment 1, Charles O’Brien (University of Pennsylvania) shared his experience in addressing regulatory hurdles and private sector funding decisions in regards to medication development for addictive disorders. Paradoxically, despite many potential therapeutic targets for addiction treatment, large pharmaceutical companies rarely invested in these disorders in contrast to schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and other CNS-related diseases. Executives argue that commercializing an effective addiction medication would not have much impact on their stock price. Federal steps, such as the Orphan Drug Act, the Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) or the Affordable Care Act (ACA) may improve our hopes in engaging pharmaceutical companies. The interaction between industry and CPDD is critical to ensure dialogue and further advancement in the field. The second discussant in segment 1, David McCann (NIDA) shared his experience in clinical site selection, which is the most important issue to a government agency or industry sponsor when evaluating a clinical site to conduct a trial. Specifically, he considered ways to increase the flexibility of academic research centers with regard to IRB oversight and allowing the use of a centralized IRB rather than local or institutional IRBs that would facilitate study coordination and data collection.

In segment 2, the first discussant, Linda Dwoskin (University of Kentucky) shared her experience as one of three founders of a privately held specialty pharmaceutical company. While starting your own business provides an exciting challenge, academic scientists should be aware that entrepreneurship comes at the price of focusing scope to move forward a specific viable product, and requires developing flexibility and adapting to achieve goals. It is critical to work in close contact with institutional offices of commercialization and technology transfer to choose whether it is more appropriate to lead your own business, while maintaining your academic status, or to hand-off your product to a third party. It is important to choose a knowledgeable Chief Executive Officer and to develop a very detailed and realistic business plan. Finally, Linda explained the tremendous effort that is required to start a company and the time-consuming...
Committee News continued from page 8

activity of obtaining funds through angel investors, venture clubs, venture capitalists, and federal grants. The second discussant in segment 2, Beatrice Setnik (INC Research) shared her experience in collaborating with academic laboratories. To avoid misunderstanding or false expectations, Beatrice conveyed that Principal Investigators (PIs) and company officials will need to consider their respective goals and carefully lay out plans for feasibility, risk management and timelines for execution. Upfront clear plans should be made for early study termination and to detail legal aspects and ownership of data generated from the collaboration.

In segment 3, the first discussant, Jean Bidlack (University of Rochester Medical Center) shared her views on non-clinical collaborations and contract for hire studies. Plans should be made to foresee all direct and indirect costs, and to generate a priority list of the research to be performed. Jean had a positive experience with contract for hire collaboration, where she performed studies for companies or other third party clients. However, she warned to have very detailed execution plans and ironclad legal support. The second discussant in segment 3, Margaret Haney (Columbia University), shared her view on conducting clinical research in collaboration with companies or in studies that utilized experimental compounds or medications. Margaret emphasized the need of detailing all aspects of the study and the importance of establishing criteria for study oversight to avoid conflicts between PIs and private sponsors.

Overall, the Town Hall meeting suggested that collaborations between academia and industry are possible and should be encouraged. However, the following common messages emerged from all discussants: 1) clear plans should be made upfront to ensure that all parties know their role and their expectations and to succeed in productive collaborations or starting a business; 2) plans should be flexible and adaptive, yet follow precisely pre-determined timelines and budgets to meet benchmarks for success; 3) to protect their scientific or financial interests all parties should have a clear exit strategy or pre-determined study termination criteria; and 4) intellectual property, data ownership, budget and revenues, as well as legal aspects should be clearly stated to avoid setbacks and/or failures.

**International Committee**

The International Committee had a productive meeting at CPDD this year and welcomed Felix Kessler to his first meeting and bade farewell to Aviv Weinstein, thanking him for his service. Prof Jim Anthony kindly agreed to our co-hosting a successful workshop on Epidemiology and Public Health Research Methods for Under-Represented Minorities at the Puerto Rico conference and we hope to submit another in this series for the 2015 meeting. We are pleased that the Committee’s joint Travel Award will be able to be offered again this year with generous subsidies from WHO & CPDD and we look forward to hearing of NIDA’s participation in this Award. Members of the Committee also participated in the very successful NIDA International Forum and that Forum supported 90 registrants to the CPDD conference. We look forward to further advancing the College’s role in nurturing drug use and addiction research internationally.
**Committee News continued from page 9**

**Member in Training Committee**

The College on Problems of Drug Dependence welcomed the Member in Training Committee (MITCo) at the conclusion of the 2014 Annual Meeting. MITCo aims to facilitate a structured outlet for in-training members of the College to liaise with associate, regular, and fellow members for the purposes of outreach, mentoring, training, networking, and collaboration. MITCo will also focus on enhancing the professional development of in-training members among the interdisciplinary field of drug dependence and abuse. The committee is chaired by Denise C. Vidot of the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, with the support of CPDD Board of Directors member, Dr. Margaret Haney. Members of the Committee are David Fakunle and Pia Mauro of Johns Hopkins University, Adam Milam of Wayne State University, Matthew Puhl of Harvard University, McLean Hospital, Carissa van den Berk-Clark of Washington University, and Dennis Wendt of the University of Michigan. If you are a Member in Training and would like to learn more about the Committee, offer suggestions, or be added to the Members in Training listserv, please contact Denise at dvidot@med.miami.edu

**Tobacco Control Committee**

The CPDD Tobacco Committee invited Sarah Evans and Heather Kimmel from the US Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products (CTP), and Kevin Walton from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) as guest participants to the 2014 annual CPDD meeting. The CTP must consider abuse liability-related factors in its regulation of tobacco products and when determining if new products will be allowed to be marketed and make claims (e.g., risk reduction). Such considerations would also apply to the rapidly growing category of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) as well as other tobacco products suggested for regulation by the FDA in its proposed deeming regulations (see the FDA website below). Specific factors that must be considered by the FDA include whether the product and regulated standard for product contents and design will increase or decrease initiation, dependence, and cessation. Regulatory priorities of the FDA include efforts to set product standards to control and reduce addictiveness and appeal (“attractiveness”) of tobacco products, and this implies extensive reliance on addiction-related science including abuse liability assessment. In fact, much of the discussion of the potential population risks and/or benefits of novel products such as ENDS, makes clear that their impact will depend as much on how they are used and how extensively they are used as it will on their direct toxicity (see Key Strategic Priorities by CTP Director Mitch Zeller at the FDA website).

CPDD researchers are encouraged to explore opportunities to contribute to research and regulation through applications for research funding, participation in advisory committee hearings, and commenting on the FDA/CTP proposed regulations. In addition to conventional NIH research funding mechanisms and priorities, the CTP provides substantial funding through contracts and as supplements to NIH funding for Tobacco Control Regulatory Research and Training. CPDD can explore these opportunities through the FDA CTP website at: [http://www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts](http://www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts). See NIDA’s website for additional information on tobacco and nicotine research at [http://www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov). Additional information of special interest to CPDD members is available through the following recent publications from the FDA’s CTP Director of Science, Assistant Surgeon General, Dr. David Ashley, and CTP staff:


Also see publications from CPDD members and collaborating scientists focusing on tobacco abuse liability related science:

